



September 2005



# HALE AHI NEWS

**HFD QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER  
July - September 2005**

## HFD Manager and Employees of the Year

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- **Friday, November 11, 2005**  
Veterans' Day
- **November 17-20, 2005**  
HFCA 27th Annual Conference  
The Fairmont Orchid  
Kona Coast, Hawaii
- **Thursday, November 24, 2005**  
Thanksgiving Day
- **Friday, December 9, 2005**  
HFD Retirees Association  
Quarterly Meeting  
Training Center  
9:30 a.m.
- **Monday, December 26, 2005**  
Christmas Holiday (Observed)
- **Monday, December 31, 2005**  
New Year's Holiday (Observed)

The City and County of Honolulu 2005 Outstanding Employees Program will be held on November 9, 2005, 9:00-11:30 a.m., at the Mission Memorial Auditorium (City Hall Annex). Honorees from each Department will be vying for the distinction of City Manager and Employee of the Year. The event is free and open to the public. Here are the HFD's honorees:

Battalion Chief Peter Gaskell was named Manager of the Year for his leadership in planning for the Department's conversion to the 800 MHz communication system. He is the Department's Chair for the 800 MHz Committee and is essentially the project manager and coordinator for the entire project.

Radio Technician Russell Kaneakua, our Civilian Employee of the Year, is a key member of the Department's 800 MHz Committee. The switch to the new system was a major undertaking, and his knowledge and professionalism were very instrumental to the success of the conversion. His technical proficiency and team-oriented approach have been beneficial to the design and implementation of the new radio system.

Fire Fighter I Victor Sherman was named Employee of the Year for his many contributions to the Department and the community. He has a Masters

Degree in Physical Therapy, Bachelors Degree in Human Physiology, and an Associates Degree in Fire Science. He is a licensed Physical Therapist and has attained his Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate certification. He uses his expertise and experience to contribute to many HFD programs like the Candidate Physical Ability Test and the Wellness/Fitness Program. His knowledge and familiarity in the medical field have allowed him to make valuable contributions to sustain and advance the Department's medical training programs.

Congratulations to all nominees! Your devotion to duty and excellent service to our community exemplifies the Department's motto of Pride, Service, Dedication.



**Deputy Chief John Clark, Battalion Peter Gaskell, Radio Technician Russell Kaneakua, Fire Fighter I Victor Sherman, Fire Chief Attilio Leonardi**





**PRIDE, SERVICE,  
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department**  
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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

## Vision Statement

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

# FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...

As always, it was another busy quarter for the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). On August 10, 2005, the HFD received Reaccredited Agency status for another five-year period, with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, Inc. (CFAI), for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. Assistant Chief Charles Wassman served as our Accreditation Manager and coordinated the reaccreditation process for the Department. Kudos to all the individuals that assisted with accomplishing this objective!

With the assistance of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, the Navy agreed to transfer the fee simple title of the Valkenburgh Street property to the City and County of Honolulu. The deed that conveyed the ownership of the property was recorded on July 21, 2005, giving the HFD its first permanent training site since it was founded in 1851. A conveyance ceremony was held at the Charles H. Thurston Training



Center in August to personally thank Senator Inouye and Navy representatives for their assistance. We also took the opportunity to acknowledge the senior Senator for his support with obtaining many Federal equipment grants for the HFD and other first responder agencies. He was presented with a fire helmet with the identification "Senator Inouye #1 HFD."

The 89<sup>th</sup> Fire Fighter Recruit Class, consisting of 49 eager recruits, started training on September 12 and is scheduled to graduate in April 2006. For your information, over

3,000 individuals recently took the Fire Fighter Recruit written examination, which was administered by the Department of Human Resources.

The annual HFD Family Fun Day was held at the Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park with over 1,200 family members and friends in attendance. We also sold an additional 1,600 tickets to those who were not able to join us that day. A big mahalo to the HFD Athletic Association, Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, HFD Federal Credit Union, HFD Firemen's Fund, and Friends of the Firehouse for subsidizing the cost of the admission tickets.

The construction of the new HFD headquarters and educational museum is progressing, and we are scheduled to occupy the building in mid-December. Mark your calendars! The blessing and dedication ceremony will be held on January 11, 2006, to coincide with the Department's 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Okada Trucking Company - just a little pressure to complete the project on time...!

We coordinated the ceremonies for the Fourth Annual Commemoration of 9-11, which was held at the Eternal Flame, located on the grounds of Honolulu Hale. Those in attendance included Jeff Coelho, Managing Director; Paul Putzulu, Deputy Chief of Police; and Elizabeth Char, M.D., Director of the Honolulu Emergency Services Department. It is important that we take the time to remember the tragic events of 9-11, as we also continue to remain vigilant, observant, and prepared on our own home front.



A current picture of the HFD Headquarters and Educational Museum.



## RETROFIT

*by Battalion Chief Lloyd Rogers*

**R**etrofitting residential high-rise buildings with automatic fire sprinklers is an extremely controversial issue. If you're a condo owner on a fixed income, paying thousands of dollars to retrofit is out of the question. If you're a fire fighter battling an inferno involving multiple floors of a high-rise, you experience the tremendous risks and difficulties in dealing with this type of fire, which could have been eliminated if the building had sprinklers.

On December 1, 2004, the City Council passed Resolution 04-334, CD1, requesting that the HFD establish a Residential Fire Safety Advisory Committee (RFSAC) to explore costs and incentives for retrofitting residential high-rise buildings. The committee is comprised of representatives from the HFD, Board of Water Supply, Department of Design and Construction, Budget and Fiscal's Property Tax Division, Council of Association of Apartment Owners, Hawaii Trades and Construction Trades Council, a fire protection engineer, and the State Department of Taxation.

The RFSAC submitted its findings to the City Council on May 31, 2005. The estimated cost to retrofit four Honolulu buildings ranged from \$5,000-15,000 per unit. The incentives included extending the compliance period to 10-15 years, real property tax credits or deductions, City-sponsored low-interest loans, insurance savings, reduced water and building permit fees, a State tax deduction, an accelerated Federal tax depreciation, and removal of the existing wet standpipe system, which would eliminate maintenance costs. For qualifying condo owners, a funding source such as a general obligation bond would pay for the cost, however a lien would be placed on the property until the unit is sold or transferred.

An issue was raised that according to national and local statistics, most fire deaths and property losses occurred in single-family dwellings. During 2000-2004, fires within the City and County of Honolulu in single-family homes accounted for 43% of the structure fires, 59% of the property damage, and 95% of the fatalities. Fires in high-rise buildings accounted for 3% of the structure fires, 5% of the total property damage, and no fatalities. An interesting comparison revealed that fire damage in high-rise buildings with sprinklers caused \$175,410 or 1% of the total property damages. Fire damage estimates in high-rise buildings without sprinklers were \$2,770,420 or 5% of the total property damages. This showed that although we do not have a high frequency of high-rise fires, the consequences are significant.

During a hearing before the City Council's Public Safety Committee, Chief Leonardi requested that the Council ask Mayor Hanne-mann to have each City department explore the incentives and their impact on the City. Without these incentives, there would be no support for a retrofit ordinance. In addition, the State will consider a State tax deduction only if the City implements its own incentives first.

In 1983, the City Council passed a retrofit ordinance requiring sprinklers in all high-rise hotels in response to the tragic fires at the MGM (85 fatalities) and Hilton (8 fatalities) hotels in Las Vegas. In 2001, the City Council added business high-rise buildings to be retrofitted with sprinklers in response to the fire at the Interstate Bank Building, at which 11 HFD fire fighters were injured (two nearly fatal).

Sam Dannaway, Fire Protection Engineer and RFSAC member, advised the Public Safety Committee that they may be under more pressure in the future to enact a retrofit ordinance. Fire safety initiatives always seem to take place after tragedies and tremendous losses occur.

## Battalion 2 - MDA Golf Tournament

*by Fire Fighter 2 Frank Sanchez*

**O**n July 1, 2005, personnel from Battalion 2, First and Second Platoons, Administration, retirees, and other guests participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Battalion 2 - 3 Club Golf Tourney. This event is held at the Hawaii Kai Executive Course and is billed as the "No Fear" Challenge.

The tournament is especially designed for "junk" golfers and includes 2-grenades (where you can throw your tee shot on the green and sign up for the greenie prize) and 1-shoe wedge (where you can kick a tee shot that's close to the green without penalty and sign up for the greenie prize). As you can imagine, there was much more noise than poise at this tournament. Luckily, we had the entire course for the afternoon's "skilled golfing" exhibition and didn't irritate too many "real" golfers.

Following the golf, a luncheon/dinner party was held at BC James Arciero's house. There were 26 prizes awarded by lucky drawing. Master of Ceremony FF3 Todd Hugo blessed the food and awarded the prizes. Ocean Kaowili, Mike Kaaawa, and friends delivered fabulous, live "chicken skin" Hawaiian music. Various cold refreshments, Outback Steaks, and other exotic food preparations by Captain Keith Kondo, with help from Captain Courtney Seto and others, completed the offerings.

A good time was had by all and it was definitely a blast from the past to see retired Battalion Chief Gordon Mahiko, Captains Francis Puana, Jack Denis, and Henry Kuhns among the other retired HFD legends on the course. It seems they have been getting in a lot of practice!

Mahalo to all of the BN2 personnel and the 130+ participants who helped make this another great year. Due to your efforts and support, a check for \$1,000 is being contributed to the Easter Seals Hawaii.





# Aloha from Iraq - By Fire Captain David "Duke" Kahanu, Jr.

*Captain Kahanu has been keeping in touch with Hale Ahi News staff via email. Here are excerpts from his two most recent letters:*

*July 12, 2005:* We are quickly approaching our one-year activation mark, and it is unbelievable how fast time is flying. August 16 is the one-year anniversary for the activation of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team for the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq. It is also the unfortunate date that four of "Honolulu's Bravest" had to leave our families behind to fulfill our nation's calling and our commitment to duty. Over these 12 months, we have traveled from tropical Schofield Barracks, to chilly Ft. Bliss, TX, to Ft. Polk, LA, then to Camp Buerhing, Kuwait, before finally reaching our destination in Iraq in the middle of February 2005. Over this period, each of us has seen a lot of sights that many people will never experience. The most touching is the living conditions of the Iraq people. There is open sewage, minimal to no electricity, clothing and footwear that even homeless people would not wear, critical food and water shortages, and medical needs that would make any of us puke. The sanitary condition of the general populace is unbelievably substandard, and literacy and general knowledge is very poor. Corruption is the key to survival here, as that is what the majority of people here live for. I can give an informant \$5 for information and ask him for loyalty, only to be bought out by an insurgent for more money than I gave. A true Iraqi "friend," someone who we may work and collaborate with day in and day out, can never be trusted. The lifestyle that these local nationals were raised in under the Saddam era was so full of criminal wrongdoing that we have a hard time understanding their style. The value of life to Iraqis is very different from us.

We are now approaching our halfway mark in this country, and complacency is what is detrimental to us now. I am sure you have all read the newspapers by now, and heard that we lost our first soldier from Hawaii. The services were just held today, and as expected, it was a very touching and somber ceremony. I remember hearing the first call on the radio when this soldier's vehicle got hit. I think my natural instinct, instilled as a fire fighter, was to go out there and help this brother. But unfortunately, operations here are not like at home where I can just get in a vehicle and head out to the incident. We all hope that we will not have to go through a memorial service again, especially for one of our own.

I write this letter to my HFD Ohana to send my warmest thanks and aloha for all that the Department may be doing to support the deployed troops. I am truly grateful for the organization that I work for, and really count the days until I am back at work with my crew, on my truck, ready to roll. The job of a fire fighter is truly the best in the world, and I would never give it up for anything else. Being separated for almost a year is almost heartbreaking. The lifestyle we live as fire fighters and the satisfaction of our job is incomparable to anything out there.

*September 21, 2005:* We are glad to say that no one has been seriously injured, attacked or killed since July, when we lost two soldiers. The Iraqi summer season, in which temperatures got to 132 degrees at the highest, is finally gone. It has been in the upper 90s for the last month, and should be constantly dropping by the day. In late October and November, it is monsoon season here, and we expect to have miserable rains, which just messes everything up. In December, it gets down to about 20 degrees. In January, we should be heading back to paradise.

The people of Iraq are very unique in that they support us, work alongside of us, and generally like us being here. Yet, when they go home for the evening, some of them have no problems sending rockets and mortars back our way. The number of attacks has decreased significantly, since we have killed or captured many key leaders. The religious month of Ramadan is coming up, and we expect the people to get restless, maybe increasing the attacks.

Other than that, we count the days till we depart. I read the newspaper online daily to see HFD in action. We are all ready to get back to normalcy. Hope everyone back home stays safe. On behalf of the four HFD fire fighters stationed here, thanks for all the prayers and support. We'll be home soon.

ALOHA,

Major David W. Kahanu Jr.  
Executive Officer, 29th Support Battalion  
LSA ANCONDA, IRAQ  
david.kahanu@balad.iraq.centcom.mil





## Waikiki 16th Annual Papio Tournament

The Waikiki Fire Station's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Papio Tournament was held on a windy, hot summer's day at the Kaneohe Bay Sandbar. On the morning of Wednesday, August 3, 2005, 20 boats and 1 kayak (former champion James Sutherland) set out for what would be a challenging day of fishing due to the weather conditions. By noon, after the three hours of allotted fishing had passed, only 11 boats recorded catches. Wayne Nojiri welcomed everyone for coming and as usual, everyone anxiously awaited the weighing of each boat's catch by weigh master Doug Silva. The largest catch of the day, which was the largest since the tournament started, was hauled in by Team Kau (Bryan) and weighed in at a hefty 9 lbs./15 oz. YES, only one ounce from being considered an ulua! Congratulations to Bryan's team. The total weight award for the most papio caught went to Team Komine/Gaskell, who's total tipped the scales at 9 lbs./10 oz. Last year, Gerald Komine teamed with Tedmund Cheong and won the largest papio category. You may be wondering how the total weight winner weighed less than the single fish that Team Kau caught. Well, the rules state that you're only allowed to win in one category. The longest fish was brought in by Team Court Case, who was last year's total weight winners.

### List of Winners

**Largest Papio:** Team Kau (Station 31/3) 9 lbs./15 oz.

**Total Weight:** Team Komine/Gaskell (Station 7/2) 9 lbs./10 oz.

**Longest Fish:** Team Court Case (Station 2/3)

A big mahalo to all those who helped to make this annual event a success. Norman Kauwe and Gary Harbottle - Head Chef and Assistant who prepared all the ono kaukau, Doug Silva - weigh master who, for 16 years, shows up with his rusty, but trusty scale, Jeff Barbieto - Pontoon Boat, and to all those who participated, thanks and see you next year!



## RETIREEES' REALM

*by Fire Captain Gideon Awa, Retired*

**All retired members are welcome to join your fellow retirees as members of the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association.**

**Retirees' Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2005, at the "Buffet 100" Restaurant in the Ward Warehouse. The meeting will be held 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow. The cost of the luncheon is approximately \$10 per person (\$7.95 plus tax and gratuity). All members and new retirees, spouses, and guests are welcome to attend.

### NOTE to All Retirees Regarding Firemen's Fund:

1. At the September Retirees Association meeting, President Donald Chang informed the retirees of the benefit changes made to the Firemen's Fund policy in March of 2004. He advised all retirees to review the changes (insurance policy, membership dues, and funeral benefits: Plans A-Burial in a plot owned by the fund, or Plan B-Other burial or disposal of ashes/total benefits and additional funeral benefits for spouse or dependent children), and update any personal information (i.e., beneficiary, change of address, etc.) with the Firemen's Fund. He thanked Battalion Chief Hiram Keliipio, Chair of the Firemen's Fund, for his presentation to the retirees in the retirees' meeting held in June.
2. Retired Fire Chief Donald Chang has been elected to represent the retirees on the Board of the Firemen's Fund, Inc. He will be proposing that the membership dues be eliminated for retirees based on the number of years as a member of the fund and/or member's age.



Retired Fire Captain Dennis Lewis addresses the members on the HFD Museum at the Retirees' Meeting on September 9, 2005.

**HFD Retirees Association:** The association welcomes any correspondence from HFD retirees. You may update your current address, pass on any information you wish to share with your fellow retirees, or provide input for our column in the HFD Newsletter, Hale Ahi News. Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.



# Fire Commissioner Jacob Ng

*by Battalion Chief Ed Suzuki*

A sense of pride was apparent as Mr. Jacob Ng described his days growing up in Waialua on the North Shore of Oahu. He reminisced about paddling a "totung" canoe up and down the Waialua River (a lot cleaner back then), catching crab, picking freshwater opae in the nearby ponds and eating it with a 10-cent can of vienna sausage, and some carrots "harvested" from a nearby farm. His roots are deep in the place he loves and he has never left.

As a child, Mr. Ng remembers the Waialua Fire Station as the hub of community activity, a sort of community center for the area. Basketball games would be held and an occasional dinner could be eaten. It was here, and through Boy Scouting, that he met Captain John Kalili, a truly amazing man who could single-handedly erect a telephone pole tent. Mr. Ng never forgot Captain Kalili and his belief in civic duty and getting involved with the community. Over the years, Mr. Ng has also been very involved in the community.

Mr. Ng spent countless years at the Pearl Harbor Pacific Division Naval Facility Engineering Command as a Program Analyst, where he has received numerous awards and distinctions, including the Federal Employee of the Year Award for the Pearl Harbor Naval Base. In spite of his busy work schedule, he found time to be a member of the Neighborhood Board, President of the Waialua Community Association, and President of the Waialua Lions Club, to name a few.

About 18 years ago, he was asked by Representative Joe Leong (the Haleiwa bypass road is named in his honor) to work with him. It took a little coaxing but he finally agreed. Representative Leong is another person Mr. Ng remembers fondly because of his many acts of leadership and caring. He remembered one night, at a community dinner, members were putting together a chicken hekka dinner. Just one problem, someone forgot about the rice. Well, we all know there has to be rice with chicken hekka! Without hesitating, Representative Joe Leong, being the "go to" kind of guy, went to a nearby restaurant to get enough rice for everyone. Needless to say, he saved the day and Mr. Ng has never forgotten his actions.



Besides serving Representative Leong in State government, he has served Senators Norman Sakamoto, Mary-Jane McMurdo, and Bert Kobayashi. Sadly, he is planning to retire as Senator Sakamoto's Senior Legislative Aide to spend more time with his family. I am sure that he will continue to be a community leader through his involvement in many civic organizations as President of the Waialua High School Foundation, member of the North Shore Neighborhood Board #27, member of the Waialua Lions Club, Director of the District 50 Lions Club International Youth Camp, Director of the PWC Federal Credit Union, and member of the Hawaii Credit Union League.

The relationship between Mr. Ng and the HFD began in his childhood through Boy Scouts and the Waialua Fire Station. So naturally when he was asked to become a Fire Commissioner, he jumped at the chance. It was payback time for all his fond memories of the Waialua Fire Station days and his need to serve the North Shore community today. He remembers the commitment of the fire fighters in the past doing a job "well-done" and sees the same commitment today from the fire fighters on the North Shore...taking on the heat, flames, and exhaustion but never wavering.

Mr. Ng agrees that Chief Leonardi has taken great steps in improving the equipment and living conditions in the fire stations. He, too, is deeply committed to improving the station living facilities and equipment through a modernization of the fire department.

So, the next time you see Mr. Ng, take the time to shake his hand and thank him for being a true civic leader who enjoys what he does. Giving back to the community and people he loves, he is committed to further the cause of our fire fighting capability and the people in the Department.



## The History of Fire Fighter Recruit Training *by Fire Captain Earle Kealoha*

**T**he Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) Fire Fighter Recruit (FFR) Training Program began on October 1, 1957. On that day, 33 FFRs were designated as the first official HFD FFR Class. Previously, new members were sent directly to the field for on-the-job training. They were later brought back in small groups to receive additional training to bring them up to par. Retired Fire Chief Donald Chang was one of those FFRs, and he provided me with some facts about his class.

1. This was the first class to use specially approved fire protective clothing, which the FFRs had to purchase at a cost of approximately \$62. Prior to that, protective clothing varied in the type of material it was made of and the type that was worn by each individual. Two years later, all personnel would be issued protective clothing purchased by the Department.
2. A two-week training was held at the Waikiki Fire Station.
3. His Training Chief was Harold Hewitt Sr., and his FFR Training Officer (RTO) was Lieutenant (and later Fire Chief) Thomas Blondin.
4. The starting FFR pay grade was SR-14A, and the starting salary was \$364.

When asked about his class highlights, Chief Chang proudly noted that his class fielded Fire Chiefs Melvin Nonaka and Frank Ka-hoohanohano, Assistant Chief Norman "Sidney" Wilson, and Battalion Chiefs (BC) Abel Fraga, Antone Pai, John Souza, and Henry Sur.

More than 20 years later, the 50<sup>th</sup> FFR Class began eight weeks of training. On April 23, 1979, 20 FFRs graduated and took their place in the HFD ranks. Among them were BCs Peter Gaskell, Manuel Neves, and James Skellington and Fire Captains Alan Calhoun and Wesley Taniyama.

On July 1, 1980, Captains and RTOs Guy Katayama and Stacy Higa joined the 52<sup>nd</sup> FFR Class for 13 weeks of training. The starting pay grade was SR-17A, with a starting salary of \$1,171. Training classes were held at the Waterfront Fire Station; other functional skills (i.e., driver training, water safety, ladder and hose evolutions) were taught at other locations. The class started with 25 FFRs, and ten of them are still HFD members. They include Captains Robert Thomas, Stephen Kishida, Ricky Muramoto, Melvin Tsutsumi, Job Harris, Lee Muller, Darryl Takezawa, and Fire Fighter III Ken Bogowitz. They celebrated 25 years of service in July.

I joined the HFD on March 16, 1982, with the 56<sup>th</sup> FFR Class. Training lasted 14 weeks. Our class had the distinction of being the last class to enter the Department as Fire Fighter Is (SR-17A). Thereafter, FFRs entered at an SR-15A rate and remained there until they successfully completed a one-year probation.

One of my highlights was a live burn training. We were able to attack, extinguish, and overhaul the old Manana Federal Fire Station (currently the Pearl City Post Office and parking lot). We were also able to perform ventilation and forcible entry prior to burning the abandoned structure. Our class includes PIO Captain Kenison Tejada and BCs Roland Harvest and Jeffrey Farris.

Over the next 20 years, FFR classes varied from 13 to 16 weeks long. The number of graduates varied from seven (60<sup>th</sup> FFR Class) to 71 (83<sup>rd</sup> Class).

The 85<sup>th</sup> FFR Class graduated after 21 weeks of strenuous training. A key reason for the increased training was to prepare for and complete EMT-B training and certification. This class was the first to complete this nationally recognized certification process.

The 87<sup>th</sup> FFR Class endured 23 weeks of training and when they graduated on March 29, 2004, they had the distinction of being the first FFR class to become nationally certified as Fire Fighter Is under the umbrella of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Course evaluations revealed that many of these FFRs felt they did not have the necessary time to prepare for the rigors of certification and train for and successfully pass the requirements of the HFD-specific requirements that were necessary to complete the training program. As a result, Chief Leonardi and the Executive Staff agreed to add four weeks of training for the next FFR class to ensure that the FFRs would be able to meet and complete both requirements.

Forty-eight FFRs were selected for the 88<sup>th</sup> FFR Class that recently graduated. Of the 40 FFRs that arrived on October 25, 2005, 34 fulfilled the program's requirements and received their badges on May 11, 2005. This class endured 28 weeks (the longest training to date) of intensive training that included certification to the National Registry EMT-B level and certification by the IFSAC. The starting salary for this group is \$2,803.

Preparations are now being made to accommodate the 48 anticipated members of the 89<sup>th</sup> FFR Class. Three weeks may be added to the training in order to introduce aspects of the IFSAC's Fire Fighter II level of certification.

It has been my good fortune to have been given the opportunity to participate as a Recruit Training Officer (RTO). I am very proud to say that the future of our Department is in good hands.

I would like to thank HFD personnel, past and present, who have played an integral part in the training of all of our FFRs. They shared a common goal to perpetuate the traditions of a proud organization and to ensure that members of the HFD continue to receive the finest training.

Above all, a special mahalo to the pillars of the Training and Research Bureau, who for what seems like forever have been the backbone of this program: Marilyn Amemiya, Sherri Perreira, and Andrea Lee.



## DECALS

Many of you may have heard that accreditation is just so we can put a decal on our apparatuses. Well, that sentiment is not unique to Honolulu. I have done many site visits in Texas, California, Nevada, Calgary, Washington, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and am scheduled for visits in Colorado and Oregon. I heard many different versions of the decal story.

How do we change that mindset? Do we even try to convince our fire fighters that accreditation is beneficial? There are many benefits to being accredited - many are listed on page 24 of the July/August 2005 issue of the "International Fire Fighter" magazine. Yes, our international union magazine.

Dr. Lori Moore is a staff member of the International Association of Fire Fighters and a member on the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) Board. During the commission meeting in Denver this past August, she had a lot of very intelligent and objective questions directed to the staff of departments being recommended for accreditation. She is doing an outstanding job in her role as a CFAI board member for the fire service.

The HFD has been reaccredited by the CFAI, and yes, we may have new decals for our vehicles. But the real reason we are so proud with the reaccreditation is because it displays the self-improvement journey Chief Attilio Leonardi set into motion in the late 1990s, and continues today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It has almost become a tradition for our Department.

To those who helped with the accreditation process, we could not have been successful without your contributions and we thank you very much. In fact, the Commission spoke highly of our Department, from the objective manual that was created to having the most peer assessors available to conduct site visits nationwide. Being accredited is a positive reflection of all of you and our Department. The decals are just an extra benefit.

*by Assistant Chief Charles Wassman*



On Wednesday, August 10, 2005, the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) held their semiannual board meeting at the Fire Rescue International convention in Denver. During their meeting, the Commissioners approved the reaccreditation of the Honolulu Fire Department, which means we are an accredited agency for another five-year period, 2005 to 2010. Later that evening, Chief Leonardi and Chief Wassman, our Accreditation Manager, accepted a plaque for the Department at the awards banquet.



After the accreditation plaques were handed out, the CFAI recognized the Chief Officers who were designated as Chief Fire Officers (CFOs). From HFD, they included Chief Leonardi, who was redesignated as a CFO for a second three-year period, Chief Clark, Chief Wassman, and Chief Nojiri, who did not make the trip to Denver. To date, five chief officers in the Department have achieved CFO recognition, the four above and Battalion Chief Manny Neves.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the reaccreditation process and to the individuals who received their CFO awards.



# Harvard Anyone???

by Battalion Chief Manuel Neves

On July 10, 2005, 68 strangers from all parts of the world converged on the campus of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at the Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts for a life and career changing event. This event was the *Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government*. I was honored with the distinction of being selected and provided with a full fellowship sponsored by the United States Fire Administration (USFA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), and the International Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA).

Today's senior executives at the state and local levels are under more pressure than ever by taking on increasingly complex challenges with fewer resources and under a greater degree of scrutiny. To best meet and conquer these challenges for the groups and organizations they work with, they must acquire the strongest skill set available.

The *Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government* provides the necessary training to ensure that officials are equipped to assess the tasks they face on a daily basis in managing result-driven government agencies. This three-week program is designed specifically to challenge assumptions and broaden perspectives about leadership in the public sector. During the course we learned strategies for establishing meaningful, attainable organizational objectives and were asked to investigate the process of developing and evaluating policy alternatives and consider our options for organizing and deploying resources, strategies, information, and services.

The class demographics included: 26 female, 44 male; 8 international (Brazil, Jordan, Australia, Ireland, Mexico), 62 domestic; 23 elected (Mayors, State Senators, State Representatives, City Council, City Managers), 29 appointed, 18 career (4 from the fire service).

Each year, the four previously mentioned fire service organizations sponsor a full fellowship to attend this program to eight lucky fire service individuals. Normally, between 130-150 apply for these 8 highly competitive slots.

Should you wish to pursue this program, my recommendation would be to begin with a self-assessment of yourself

and your accomplishments thus far. As a Department, one of the tools we use to measure our success and to steer our direction is our accreditation process. At a personal level, the best "roadmap" would be the Chief Fire Officer Designation (CFOD) template. This process identifies ten categories that test your "commitment" to your own self-improvement, to your Department, and to the fire service itself.

Like most of us, I decided to enter public service to make a real difference in people's lives. Little did I know that entering the *Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government* would change my life as it did the 67 other participants. We are no longer strangers, but have become a lifelong network for friendship and support in our respective careers.



## Environmental Award - No Smoke Exhaust Filtration System

Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona hosted an awards ceremony recognizing two county departments and one State department that reached their environmental goals for 2004. The Honolulu Fire Department was honored for implementing the "no smoke" diesel exhaust filtration system and other energy saving ideas. Chief Leonardi and Battalion Chief Douglas Hooper accepted the award on behalf of all the members of the Department. The award was a framed, custom colored hand-stitched needlepoint of three local fish. The County of Kaua'i Department of Water and the State Department of Business and Economic Development were also honored.





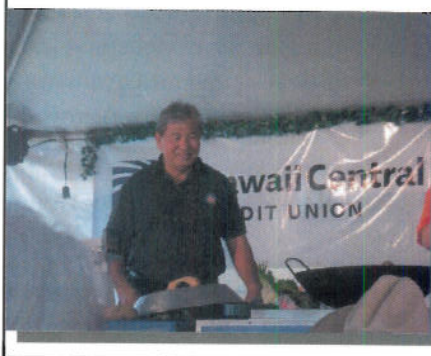
## CHIEF CHEF - A Taste of Honolulu

*Battalion Chief John Leong*

On June 25, 2005, at the annual Easter Seals Hawaii fundraising event, A Taste of Honolulu, a new Food Network star was born. Assistant Chief Alvin Tomita of the HFD and Assistant Chief Brian Wauke of the HPD squared off in a "Ready, Set, Cook" type of competition, where they were supplied with basic ingredients such as ground beef, fresh vegetables, staples, and seasonings, along with one mystery ingredient that they needed to incorporate into their chosen dish. They were then given 30 minutes to come up with an idea and plan of action, do all the prep work, cook the dish, and present it to the five judges, who were selected at random from the audience. Both contestants closely scrutinized all of the possible ingredients and anxiously awaited the unveiling of the secret ingredient,

which turned out to be---  
**SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS!**

After a few moments of thinking and tapping their creative energies, the competitors turned the demonstration kitchen into a flurry of chopping, mixing, seasoning, and cooking. They also did a little tasting along the way to ensure their satisfaction with the final product. Assistant Chief Wauke decided on a teri-hamburger with the mushrooms



chopped and mixed into the ground beef along with the basic teriyaki flavorings. Chief Al displayed some international flair by creating an Asian hamburger stew with shiitake mushrooms and vegetables.

The contestants and the audience waited with anticipation, while the judges tasted both dishes and voted for their favorite. After a few tense moments, the winner was declared---the Asian hamburger stew!! The crowd went wild as the new champion was crowned.

Thanks to Chief Al for representing us well and "bringing home the bacon." He hasn't yet decided if he will have his own booth at next year's event, but one thing's for sure---you can take the man out of the firehouse, but you can't take the firehouse out of the man.

## RECERTIFICATION: Execs Lead by Example *by Fire Captain Jason Takara*

Do you cringe when you're told it's your turn...time to recertify whatever it is that needs certification? I have absolutely nothing personal against the people behind the training programs. They are tasked with the huge responsibility of ensuring that 1,000+ Department personnel are current in their certifications; in fact, they do a great job helping us achieve the requirements for our job. But sometimes the recertification process is a real drag! Being assigned to a bureau position has its pros and cons. Like everyone else, we have our diverse responsibilities, but when you're in the middle of an already busy day and are required to attend a training session to maintain certification, it sure is tough. It's tougher still when you come back after the training session and find your mound of work waiting "especially for you." How much more challenging it must be for those in the field having to leave the station and make their way to the Training Center to attend a recertification session.

Well with almost 17 years of training

sessions under my belt, another one had arrived. The renewal of my BLS1 certification was on the horizon, and Fire Fighter III Larry Moore, who does an excellent job, arranged a training session for the bureau personnel. Not looking forward to the session and feeling a bit antagonistic, I was pleasantly surprised to experience something quite refreshing.

As part of the instructor certification process and upon completion of the written exam, we are required to teach the BLS material to the rest of the class. Imagine seeing that the class roster includes Fire 1, Fire 2, and Fire 4. How much more stressful can it get for the chosen instructor, eh? All this time, I thought Execs were exempt from attending these classes. I would think they'd have more important stuff to do, right? Wouldn't it be easier to make a phone call and have your certification instantly updated?

From my perch at the back of the room, I observed the leaders of our Depart-

ment listening intently to the American Heart Association BLS video. It was even more inspiring to witness them actually getting "down and dirty" with the hands-on portion of the training. Chief Nojiri went as far as retrieving the bag valve mask from his Department vehicle to test if it was functional. It was great. There wasn't a hint of anyone "pulling rank" on an instructor, nor intimation of having more significant things to do. They were illustrating and modeling by example what it takes to be a leader. For that moment in time, there we were, all of us just fire fighters working together, side-by-side, getting the job done. It was quite an impressive scene.

So from now on, when I'm reminded that it's time for RECERTIFICATION of some sorts, I'll still cringe at having to sit in the training class, but should my thoughts wander and drift back to the mess on my desk awaiting my return, I'll remember that refreshing day when our Execs were "Walking the Walk" and not just "Talking the Talk." They were leading by example.





## RETIREMENTS



### Jonathan H. Wong - Fire Fighter I

September 16, 1987 - June 30, 2005

17 years, 9.5 months

### Timothy Bannan - Fire Fighter III

January 16, 1976 - July 31, 2005

29 years, 6 months

**MAHALO AND ALOHA**



## LAST ALARM



### FIRE LIEUTENANT KENNETH K. WARNER

**June 16, 2005**

Appointed June 1, 1943

14 years

Last Assignment - Engine 8/2

### FIRE CAPTAIN RYUZO HORIE

**June 20, 2005**

Appointed July 1, 1949

26 years, 6 months

Last Assignment - Engine 23/1

### FIRE CAPTAIN LOT K. TOOMEY

**July 10, 2005**

Appointed January 7, 1942

34 years

Last Assignment - Engine 16/2

### FIRE FIGHTER III FRANCOIS G. WALLACE

**August 18, 2005**

Appointed February 16, 1966

26 years

Last Assignment - Ladder 18/2

## CIVILIAN CORNER

by Fire Captain Kenui Spencer

### Jon Sakamoto

Data Processing Specialist

Department of Information and Technology

Fire Communication Center

The HFD would like to welcome a new member to our fire fighting family. Jon Sakamoto works for the Department of Information Technology (DIT) and is assigned to the HFD as a DPSA II in charge of the CADS. Working out of the Fire Communication Center, Jon's main responsibilities are to maintain functionality of the CADS including server and application management, end-user and front-user assistance, and mapping to ensure a seamless operation between the CADS and personnel in the field. The CADS also provides the data for the RMS, Fireview, and ArcGIS data analyses tools. If you don't know what that all means, call Jon.

A graduate of Iolani School ('92), Jon went on to obtain his degree in Decision and Information Science (equivalent to



MIS) at Santa Clara University ('96). After SCU, Jon worked for Sprint Hawaii and various IT communication companies on the mainland. Before entering the City, Jon worked at First Hawaiian Bank.

Jon enjoys music, playing the guitar and drums, video games (X-Box), and fishing. "I come from a fishing family," says Jon. "My dad and grandfather loved fishing, it's in the blood." He and his wife, Lea, love their two pet rabbits Kinako and Akiko. "It was five times more expensive to ship each rabbit here than we paid to get them from the pet shop. But you can't put a price on your pets." So, we'd like to greet Jon with a big "Aloha" and welcome to the HFD family.





## ANNIVERSARIES

JULY-SEPTEMBER

### 25 Years

Kenneth F. Bogowitz  
Job M. Harris  
Stacy L. Higa  
Guy N. Katayama  
Stephen M. Kishida  
Lee K. Muller  
Ricky Y. Muramoto  
Darryl S. Takizawa  
Melvin H. Tsutsumi



### 15 Years

William G. Agbayani  
Christopher Ah Mook Sang  
Clyde M. Ah Soon  
John H. Akana  
Thomas L. Akana  
Jeffrey S. Barbeito  
Robert E. Cates  
Mark D. Cook  
Thomas M. Ettinger  
Abraham D. Farakish  
Kevin C. Farm  
Anthony A. Hart  
Henry A. Kuhns IV  
Dominic M. Latorre  
Dwayne E. Lee  
Gilbert Medeiros Jr.  
Peter A. Mendoza  
Conrad J. Nakamoto  
Myles S. Okada  
Lance T. Orillo  
John S. Pacheco Jr.  
Kim R. Rogge  
Guy L. Seto-Mook  
James R. Todd  
Richard T. Tsugawa  
Terry T. Watanabe



### 10 Years

Steven J. Nakasone (*Civilian*)  
Alison K. Sasaki (*Civilian*)  
Mayson P. Asano  
Andrew Bisch  
Michael E. Carter  
Brian P. Coughlin  
Dwayne T. Dunaway  
Raymond L. Egan Jr.  
Ryan J. Fernandez  
Regienaldo V. Gawiran  
Robert T. Imai  
Lincoln M. Ishii  
Darren M. Iwamoto  
Kent K. Kam  
Patrick A. Keawe  
Aaron K. Lenchanko  
Cleghorn R. Lopes  
Mark D. Marciel  
Ted K. Muraoka  
Herbert S. Nishii  
Todd R. Obata  
Brendan M. O'Connor  
Bradlee N. Okemura  
Garrett K. Oshiro  
Michael K. Pangilinan  
Issac L. Raphael  
Thomas M. Reppuhn  
Clifford M. Rigsbee  
Jacob-John K. Rodrigues  
Jay E. Rush  
Frank F. Sanchez III  
Brian F. Schafer  
Sebastian K. Sheldon  
Bryan L. Soares  
Joseph N. Souza III  
Mark S. Takahashi  
Stephen M. Wheeler



## PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following personnel who were promoted during the 1st quarter:

### FIRE FIGHTER II

James K. Apana  
Clayton J. O. S. Choo Jr.  
James K. Chun  
Keith K. Condon  
George K. Davis  
Andrew M. Fukuda  
Wade K. H. Furukawa  
Regienaldo V. Gawiran  
Nolan K. Hanohano  
Dave A. Higa  
Robert T. Imai  
Keith K. Ito  
Darren M. Iwamoto  
Dwight D. Kahooahanohano  
Randal T. Kong  
Mark D. K. Marciel  
Robin A. Matsuda  
Derek L. Maurer  
Ross K. Miyashiro  
Kristian C. R. K. Naluai  
Jay K. Nourrie  
Issac L. Raphael  
Matthew K. Rigg  
Jay E. Rush  
Mark S. Takahashi  
Brent I. Takemoto  
Jason K. Torres  
Dean T. Watanabe  
Leonard K. Waters  
Alike H. Winter

### CIVILIAN

Sarah Ann M. Ulep

